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Council on Aging Minutes 05/17/07

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING
 27 Maple Street
 Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
 Paul West, Vice Chair
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Annual Meeting of the Council on Aging
 May 17, 2007

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Paul West, Karen Nichols, Harry McCabe, Ann MacGowan, William Carey and Shirley Chapski.
 Members Absent: Mildred Hurd

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Elisa Lopez, President, Arlington Seniors Association; and Bill Murphy, COA Transportation & Volunteer Services Coordinator

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Paul West presided and Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present.

Minutes of the April 19, 2007 Regular meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the April 19, 2007 meeting, Shirley seconded. There being no corrections to the minutes, Ann moved to accept the minutes, Karen seconded, five voted in favor, Ann abstained because she was not present at the April meeting. Motion carried.

Bob Tosi joined the meeting at 7:35.

Citizens Open Forum: Bill Murphy invited the members to schedule a ride the COA van to learn how the riders view the van transportation program. Bill has an article in this week's Advocate which is a follow up to last week's piece on COA transportation and the issues it faces. Bill then departed the meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR: •Bob referred to an article entitled, Uncertain Future Faces Senior Bus, which appeared in the May 3 issue of The Advocate.

- He welcomes input from all members and issues will be discussed under "New Business."
- CDBG Funding for FY2008: Transportation Enterprise Fund — \$57,850; Meals on Wheels Scholarship Program — \$0; Volunteer Services Coordinator — \$36,855; Adult Day Health Scholarships — \$7000; Lifeline Subsidy Program — \$0
- Warrant Articles are still pending for the Harry Barber Community Services Program and Arlington's Fair Share for Minuteman Senior Services.
- On June 21 the 30th anniversary of the Minuteman Senior Services Meal Site will take place at the Senior Center.
- The Vial of Life kickoff date was postponed and no new date has been set.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. Additional comments are as follows:

- Pat Falwell, COA nurse, and John attended UMass Boston School of Nursing's annual scholastic and recognition day. It is hoped that they keep Arlington in mind as a field site for the nursing program for either this fall or next spring.
- John will be on vacation last week of May but will come in for the Walk the Rink program.
- John shared a letter from a senior voicing her thoughts on the COA van service and she also secured signatures of other riders on the vans.

- EOTC application for a new van grant — John said we don't typically hear from the Office of Transportation for a number of months. If approved this year, we could expect a new van by summer or fall of 2008. Discussion followed on the \$10,000 for a new van which was in the capital budget last year but doesn't appear in this year's budget. This discrepancy will be called to Christine Connolly's attention.
- Executive Office of Elder Affairs COA Formula Grant Application needs to be postmarked next week.
- Walk the Rink program is doing very well with 80 people signed up.
- David Facey is interested in applying for the open seat on COA board but hasn't submitted his letter to the town yet. Bob felt that the position could be advertised.
- The 200th Anniversary Senior Picnic will take place on June 2 at the skating rink playground.

OTHER REPORTS:

- COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry reported that Minuteman's Contract Administrator is retiring they are recruiting to fill the opening. There has been a recalculation of board membership and, based on a recent census, Arlington has been cut from three representatives to two. The current three members will be allowed to continue but when membership goes to two persons it will remain at two.
- COA Representative/Liaison to the Seniors Association: Shirley said she spoke with Mildred who did attend the last ASA meeting. Mildred said she did call Minuteman Services about the possibility of them serving weekend meals. She was told they are considering one weekend day and it would probably be at Drake Village but John should check it out.
- Arlington Seniors Association Representative to COA: Elisa referred to a letter dated May 1 the ASA received from John in regard to the transportation problems the COA is facing. The letter proposed that, as an alternative course of action, the ASA pay the second van driver's salary of \$120 on Wednesdays in order to continue to serve the Bingo program clients. Subsequently, this action has been put on hold. Harry commented that the transportation program serves all Arlington's seniors and does not differentiate between COA and ASA programs and he finds the proposal divisive and is not something we should pursue. Discussion followed and Harry said the ASA board is considering how they can help. Lastly, Elisa invited all to come to the ASA yard sale at the senior center on May 19.
- Budget Committee: The committee, Christine Connolly and John met Monday, May 14 and reviewed the COA's budget numbers for April. John referred the members to the financial report, under COA Subsidy Funds, item "Sevyan Dial a Ride Scholarship Pilot Program," which lists encumbered at "0." There are several people enrolled in that program and there will be some drawing down (approximately \$2100) this fiscal year because that account is active now. The next Budget Cte. meeting is June 18 at 10:30 a.m.

•Transportation Committee:

- (a) At a recent meeting of the Transportation Cte. Mary Dodge, as a user of the vans, gave some thoughts and insights on how important the program is.
- (b) The Budget Cte. meeting met recently and transportation issues were addressed. It was decided, that because this issue has become so complex and takes up so much time at the regular board meeting, to establish a Committee of the Whole to meet at separate time to focus on transportation issues. The first such meeting will be Thurs., June 7, 2007 at 7 p.m.
- (c) Karen offered to help with the proposed advertising plan for the vans and the board expressed their appreciation for her offer.
- (d) John said he will need the board's help with making calls to local hospitals to try to secure their help financially with the transportation program.
- (e) John distributed copies of his updated figures on the transportation program to be in accordance with the FY08 block grant funding and discussion followed. The projected transportation fund balance at end of FY08 would be only \$550. Therefore, other avenues of funding will need to be pursued. He will ask the podiatrists to double their contribution to the COA, half of which would go to the Gift Fund and the other would be added to the transportation fund. This action is planned to begin in September.
- (f) Harry said it will be helpful if the board could see ridership figures to help in its assessment of the transportation program and John agreed to furnish this information.

- Joint COA/ASA Committee: The committee met on May 7, 2007 and is continuing to work on producing a special issue of the Senior Notes. to be mailed to all Arlington seniors. This issue will have a survey component as an insert and Ann MacGowan is working on it. Elisa has a couple of people lined up to help with the writing of articles for the special issue but no date has been set for its mailing.

A dessert social and business agenda meeting of both boards is being considered for Sept. 13.

Elisa then departed the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

EOEA COA Formula Grant Application. John referred the board to their copies of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs COA Formula Grant Application for review and discussion. Paul West departed the meeting. Shirley moved to accept COA Formula Grant Application which will be signed and forwarded to the EOEA, Ann seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

Dial A Ride Specifications; John has spoken with the Town Purchasing Agent, Dom Lanzillotti, who said he needs the update on specifications from us by Sept. Bob said we will be addressing this matter at June 7 meeting on transportation.

•Election of Offices: Bob Tosi opened nominations for officers for the year 2007-2008. Shirley moved to nominate Bob Tosi as Chair for the coming year, Bob agreed and Harry seconded the motion; it was moved and seconded to close the nominations for Chair; all in favor. Motion carried. Shirley moved to nominate Paul West as Vice Chair, pending his acceptance, for the coming

year; Ann seconded; It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed for the position of Vice Chair; all in favor. Motion carried. Harry moved to nominate Shirley Chapski as Secretary and she agreed, Karen seconded. Bob Tosi moved to close nominations, Bill Carey seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

"Vial of Life" Effort: Karen has followed up on the cost of the magnets needed for this project — it will cost \$179 for 1000 magnets so our appropriation covers that. She sent the information to Capt. Kevin Kelly of the Arlington Fire Dept. and John will pass Karen's findings on to Christine Connolly

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS: Bob reminded the members to contact Bill Murphy to schedule a van ride if they have not already done so and recruitment is ongoing for a board member and for associate members.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Harry moved to adjourn; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Shirley Chapski
Secretary

Next Regular Meeting of the COA June 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 21, 2007

the mission of the council on aging is to provide advocacy and support services
to help arlington elders live dignified and independent lives

1. COA warrant articles approved (p. 6)
2. Frequent meetings and consultations with COA staff, other COAs, Health/Human Services Department Head about the status, potential efforts, directions of the transportation enterprise program.
3. We had no opportunity last month to discuss the *1991 Council work session notes* (8-15) and *Thoughts on agency needs* (16-19) that were distributed for the May meeting. I have enclosed them again this month so we can go over them as tools for future directions. This relates to our stated agency goals for FY2008 (20).
4. We're having problems getting/holding on to volunteers for the reception desk, in great part due to the limited parking situation (21).
5. Elder affairs Secretary resigns (22-23).
6. I ask each board member to write your legislators now, thanking them for the 3% EOEA budget increase (24). This translates to about \$1600 for Arlington's Formula Grant in FY2008. Last week I signed 200 letters from MCOA thanking these folks, but they are much more impressed when they hear from board members and private citizens.
7. MCOA Fall Conference scheduled for October 3-5 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. If you would like to attend, PLEASE CALL ME BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR ROOM RESERVATION (31). Funds are VERY limited and approval will be on a first come/first served basis.
8. However...I'd love to begin to see some Arlington board members at our regularly-scheduled membership meetings. They have been participating from other COAs for a while now...see page 39. Again, call me ASAP on this one if you'd like to go. By the way, Arlington-Milford-Arlington is about 100 miles round trip, but worth the ride...wait until you see their senior center!

ADDITIONS

Met with social worker and transportation coordinator to review COA / Sanborn grant expenditures for the past 1½ years, and to determine an appropriate amount to request from the Sanborn Foundation at this time.